



The spark plasma sintering system was one of the first major pieces of research equipment to be installed at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, which secured nearly \$14 million in research grants since July 2008.

Center for Advanced Energy Studies nearly triples research funding goal

by [Kortny Rolston](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

When Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter toured the Center for Advanced Energy Studies building last fall, CAES officials promised him the research partnership would pay off.

Then, they gave him a number.

"We made the commitment that CAES would bring in \$5 million in new research money," CAES Director Harold Blackman said. "We wanted him to know we were serious about providing the state and the other CAES partners with a return on their investment."

In the months since, CAES has delivered on that promise and then some. From July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009, it brought in \$13.9 million in research and other funding.

"We're very excited to have done so well," Blackman said about the public/private partnership between Idaho National Laboratory, the Department of Energy and the state of Idaho through its three public research universities, Boise State University, Idaho State University and University of Idaho. "We almost tripled our goal."

Much of the money is for nuclear-related research, including projects for the Electrical Power Research Institute and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And Idaho State University, University of Idaho and Boise State University, all CAES partners, competed for and won \$5.8 million for various research proposals through a DOE Office of Nuclear Energy program for colleges.

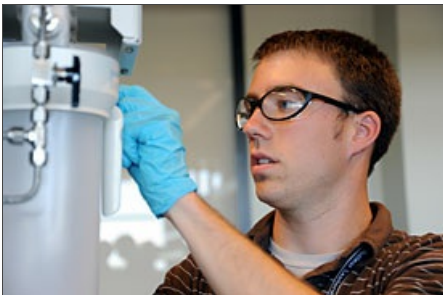
Not all the research funding was nuclear-related, however. CAES signed a \$3.1 million agreement with a company to commercialize one of its first major research projects on precision nanoparticles, which also won a prestigious R&D 100 Award.

And CAES partnered with two universities, Boise State and Utah State, to win a \$20,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The funding will help them explore forming a regional industry/university cooperative to conduct radioactive materials research.

Otter congratulated CAES for surpassing its goal.



Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter recently called Idaho's investment in CAES "a leap of faith" that has paid off for the state.



INL intern Tanner Hesse assembles equipment that CAES scientists are using to conduct research for the Electrical Power Research Institute.

At a recent Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Otter pointed to CAES as one of the bright spots in Idaho's otherwise struggling economy. He called investing in CAES a "leap of faith" that has paid off for Idaho.

"What's happening at CAES is a great example of what can be accomplished when we focus our complementary talents on our shared goals," he said. "All of Idaho is better off for having CAES working with researchers at our universities to advance the goals of energy independence and economic opportunity. It's a partnership with tremendous promise, and which already is delivering."

Its research is focused on bioenergy, carbon management, energy policy, and materials and nuclear science and engineering.

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